

obtained the opinion of Sir Charles Pasley and other scientific as well as practical men concerning in his opinion, and they were ultimately adopted. The hon. commissioner had spoken of the great difficulty experienced through the opposition to house drainage. Why, the report had been about thirteen months, and they had never had a discussion. The report was full of error, and wrong in principle. He then referred to various points in it, which were all debatable questions, and ought to be brought into the court and discussed. He thought the public ought to be made acquainted with every thing that took place. The time of the officers, too, was completely taken up by these committees, instead of their being out and engaged in works of drainage; and at the last Finance Committee Mr. Lovick had stated that it was quite impossible that he could attend to his duties, for every day in the week he was in attendance on committees. He found eighty-five pages taken up with the minutes of these committees for a week. What were the commissioners to know of this "mob" of business, some of which involved engagements with a company which was not authorised by law, and involved a principle never discussed in that court? If the law officers of the Crown gave their opinion that under the 23rd section they could appoint committees, special committees, and sub-committees, there would be an end of the matter; but although they had lost their motion, yet in fact they had carried it, for the committee had passed a resolution to suspend their works, and that all commissioners might be present at committees. A Commissioner said they might be present, but were not allowed to speak or vote.

Mr. Leslie.—At any rate we have got the wedge in. He concluded by supporting Mr. Byng's resolution.

After a few words from Lord Ebrington, Sir H. de la Beche, and Mr. Lawes, the noble Chairman's suggestion was adopted, that the solicitor to the Court do prepare a special case, to be submitted to the law officers of the Crown, for their opinion as to the legality of transacting the business of the commission by committees.

The Metropolitan Sewage Manure Company.—A long discussion ensued on the following resolution:—"Resolved.—Pursuant to the recommendation of the Works Committee, the court do allow 1,500 feet of pipe to be put down to connect the sewer at Walham-green with the sewer at Stamford Villas, Fulham-road, at an estimated expense of 437l., the Metropolitan Sewage Manure Company being allowed to divert the sewage to their works for one year, the company paying rent of 8 per cent. thereon for the year."

Mr. Leslie opposed the motion as illegal, and this view was taken by some of the shareholders themselves, and a protest has been liberally circulated as to the illegality of the proceedings of the company.

The motion, however, was eventually agreed to. Several orders for works were agreed to, and the court adjourned.

Miscellaneous.

THE ATTACK ON THE OFFICE OF WOODS.—The suppositions that we offered last week, in reply to the attacks made by contemporaries on the office of Woods, prove to be correct, especially as regards the two "lucky architects," Nash and Burton. At the moment that our last number, shewing what was probably the real state of the case, was at press, Lord Carlisle, in the House of Peers, was stating positively that our explanation was correct. The small rent, too, paid by certain members of the aristocracy for land in the Green-park is stated to be not for the land on which their houses stand, but for certain small pieces of pleasure-ground adjoining.

THE ALBION PLATE GLASS COMPANY.—A meeting of the shareholders of this incipient incorporation was held at the offices, Railway-place, Fenchurch-street, City, on 27th ult., when office-bearers were elected, and a resolution to hasten the complete establishment of the company unanimously passed, on the ground that a great necessity exists for a further extension of the manufacture of plate glass. The manager, Mr. H. Howard, is said to have made considerable improvements for cheapening the manufacture, about to be patented. In the report read to the meeting, a comparison of British and foreign tenders for certain specific quantities of plate glass was made, and the amounts quoted as follows:—

Foreign houses.	English houses.
For glazing purposes.	£277 19 2
For silvring purposes.	£190 0 0
	119 19 8
	108 15 10

These prices of the English manufacturer, it was said, afford a large profit—averaging about 1s. per foot, so that it was believed foreign competition is now virtually excluded from the English market.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 21st inst., for the erection of a new church at Mansfield, Nottingham; by 27th, for alterations and additions to Hampstead workhouse; by April 2nd, for rebuilding a house and offices (chiefly with old materials) at Petham, near Canterbury; by 3rd, for the erection of a borough prison at Devonport; by 12th inst., for the construction of a pipe sewer of glazed stoneware, from the sewer at Walham-green to the sewer at Stamford Villas, Fulham; by 13th, for the construction of sewers in Tudor-street, Dorset-street, Primrose-hill, and elsewhere; by 26th, for the erection of the National, Industrial, and Infant Schools at Henley-on-Thames, Oxon; by 21st, for the erection of St. Edmund's Church, Northampton; by 17th, for finishing four houses in Richmond-road, Westbourne-grove, Paddington; by 14th, (extension of time) for the erection of the Printers' Almshouses; by 13th, for the erection of a school-house at Montpelier; by 15th, for the necessary works in the erection and completion of butchers' and fish markets at Worcester; by 24th, for the erection of a police station and strong rooms at Witham; by a date not specified, for the erection of a stone bridge near Airdrie, and for making a road there; also for constructing a road at Birmingham-beath; by 13th, for repairing, paving, &c., footways and carriageways at Cambridge (separate contracts); by 20th, for 4,000 tons of railway chairs, for the Great Northern Railway; by 12th, for laying nine miles of water-pipes at Boston; and by 26th, for laying 25 miles of lead-jointed iron pipes for Derby water-works.

COMPETITION.—Plans are required for the erection of a corn exchange and other buildings in the town of Northampton, at an outlay not exceeding 8,000l.

A FLOATING CHURCH.—The *English Churchman* gives a description, accompanied by an engraving, of an ecclesiastical edifice which is, as yet, we believe, without a parallel,—a real church afloat, a new Gothic structure with tower and spire, belfry and bell, and capable of accommodating 550 worshippers. Its seats are all free. Built, of course, of wood, it is painted to represent brown-stone: from the deck to the ball on the spire is 80 feet in height—its dimensions are 86 feet by 34 feet, with a passage all round it. The whole rests on two boats of 90 tons burden. It was constructed at New Jersey, for the Churchmen's Missionary Association, and is to be moored at a wharf in Philadelphia, for the especial use of sailors and boatmen.

MARON'S PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—The third annual meeting of the above institution was held on Tuesday evening, March 6, at the City of Westminster Literary Institution; Mr. William Freeman, Treasurer, in the chair. The report of the committee and auditors for the past year shewed the balance in the hands of the institution to be 244l. 19s. 3d., including the purchase of stock 3 per cent. consols to the amount of 250l. 4s. 9d.; and although not so gratifying as might have been anticipated, in consequence of the great depression of trade, congratulated the members upon the steady progress of the society. A resolution upon the choice of a president, in the room of the late Mr. Alderman John Johnson, will be found in our advertising columns.

LONDON IMPROVEMENTS.—Do, pray, direct public attention to the necessity of opening up Picket-place into Lincoln's-Inn-square, and pulling down all the houses which are now in the courts and alleys near it. The whole of that part north of the Strand is perfectly disgusting, and inhabited by people of the worst description. If a handsome street were built as a continuation of the present Picket-place to Lincoln's-Inn-square, the houses would let at high rents as chambers, and the ground-floors might be occupied as shops.—R. P.

APPROPRIATION OF RAILWAY ARCHES.—We perceive that the suggestion made in *THE BUILDER*, for the conversion of railway arches for the houseless poor, is proposed to be carried out by an association under the title of "The Samaritan Society of England," but in their prospectus we do not see any reference whatever to the quarter whence the suggestion originated on which the scheme of benevolence is founded.

ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.—A correspondent says, relative to a restoration here, "The south transept has a pinnacle at each corner surmounting the buttress, one of which it had become necessary to repair; this feat has been accomplished by about one-third being sliced off, and a flat stone with projecting edge being placed on it, giving it the appearance of a jelly glass turned topsy-turvy, or a flat-bottomed extinguisher." On examination, we find the statement correct, but can scarcely suppose that the step in question is any thing more than a temporary measure. The condition of this church, in other respects, is a sad disgrace to the parish.

GEOMETRICAL PROPORTION.—At the conversational meeting of the York Philosophical Society, on the 26th February, Mr. Fowler Jones, architect, read a paper on the geometrical proportion of Gothic architecture, as introduced by Mr. Griffith in his work on that subject; and showed by examples in proof of alternating squares, triangles, and hexagon, being the framework on which the plans and sections were constructed, that there was no doubt of the application of the system in the plan of York Minster, St. Mary's Abbey, York, the chancel of Howden Church, Selby ditto, Skelton, and various others.

THE SMITHFIELD NUISANCE.—An attempt of Mr. J. T. Norris, in the City Court of Common Council, to have a special committee appointed to provide a more suitable site for the market, was met by "the previous question," and by a deal of speechifying, con. much more than pro, on the delivery of which the question was put, and the motion negatived without a division.

A BOWLING SALOON, on the American principle, has been recently got up at Liverpool, in a very showy style, it appears, and with five bowling alleys, and, of course, 'a commodious bar,' and suitable lounges and refreshment-rooms, &c. "The entrance," says a Liverpool paper, "consists of a vestibule, enriched with windows of stained glass, and profusely decorated with ornaments in white and gold, and communicates with the interior by handsome folding-doors. The internal appearance on entering is extremely handsome and striking, the walls being divided into compartments, in each of which is a landscape, drawn in a masterly style, by an artist of celebrity, and ornaments of *papier mâché* and gutta percha gilded are introduced in abundance, and with great skill and effect. The howling-alleys have circular projections at the ends surmounted by statues. 'The saloon is fitted up in the richest style of splendour.' The whole concern was designed and executed by Messrs. Furness and Kilpin.

BLIND BUILDERS.—**EWELL CHURCH.**—The following tenders, says a correspondent, were delivered for works required to be done in pulling down the old parish church at Ewell, and for alterations and additions to the tower, to form the same into a burial chapel, and for building boundary walls round the new churchyard: Mr. Hy. Clutton, architect.

Haynes, Ewell.....	£329 15 1
Stone, ditto.....	277 18 0
Hards, ditto.....	122 4 6

Old materials remaining to be the property of the contractor.

TO OUR READERS.

It has been suggested to us at various times that some of the best architectural subjects given in *THE BUILDER*, if printed in a superior manner on good paper, with the accompanying descriptions, plans, &c., and issued periodically, would form a work that would be acceptable not only to those who are not buyers of *THE BUILDER*, but to many who are,—the current engravings being often creased by the newsmen, or otherwise injured. We are disposed to try the experiment, and to publish, in a neat wrapper, under the title, "*BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS, MODERN AND MEDIEVAL*," about Eight Plates, with eight pages of letter-press, folio size, every second month, price half-a-crown. The first part would consist of Osborne House, with plan; Bridgewater House, plan and details; Church of St. Isaac, Peterborough; Kensington Union Workhouse; Pembroke College, Oxford; the Liverpool Branch Bank; and the north porch of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. Before determining upon the scheme, however, we should be glad to receive the names of such gentlemen as would be willing to become subscribers to the work.